9-8-22

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Photo 4

September 8, 1922

From a higher vantage point, the Camas Mill construction site spreads across the frame: forms, ramps, timbers, rail lines, workers, and machinery all visible at once. The angle suggests the photograph may have been taken from across the street, possibly from an upper floor or roof of the McMaster Building seen in the previous image. The camera appears to be looking from downtown Camas across the corner of the mill and up toward Prune Hill, visible in the background.

In the distance, Division Street appears to climb toward the right, with the hillside rising behind it. A few tall snags stand beyond the construction site, likely remnants of the older forested landscape. Their scale is hard to judge, but they suggest what once surrounded Camas before logging, paper production, and mill expansion reshaped the town.

A close look reveals approximately 24 workers scattered across the site. Some are actively working, others pause in small groups, and one figure near the left center stands out: a man in a suit with his hands on his hips.

One detail that carries real scale is the long timber supporting the cement trough. The beam appears to be roughly 60 feet long and apparently without scabs, suggesting the size of the trees still available for industrial use at the time.

The mill was not being built apart from the town around it. The construction site, the downtown streets, the hillside, the remaining forest, and the workers all occupy the same frame — Camas in the middle of becoming a mill town on a much larger scale.